

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, and to honor the men and women who proudly served in the United States Armed Forces during this turbulent period in history.

Our nation will never be able to fully express the heartfelt gratitude we have for our veterans. The debt that we owe them is immeasurable. Time and again, our servicemen and women have stepped forward to defend the freedoms we enjoy today.

American veterans are a cornerstone of society. Past generations helped build up this great country and did not hesitate to answer the call of duty. As we remember their selfless actions, it is my hope that citizens everywhere take time to speak with the veterans in their family and community. Thank them for their service, and ask them about their role in defending our country. Helping veterans pass on their priceless wisdom and memories to future generations is one of the best ways we can honor them today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating this 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Ask that my colleagues rise and join me in thanking our veterans, past and present, for the sacrifices they have made in service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. BERNICE COLEMAN THOMPSON

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Bernice Coleman Thompson on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Mrs. Thompson has been a trailblazer and leader in her church and local community her entire adult life. Mrs. Thompson was born in Salford, Alabama on September 24, 1933, to Daniel and Annie Coleman. At the age of 10, she moved to New York City where she would remain throughout her formative years. Mrs. Thompson earned an AAS degree in secretarial studies with an emphasis on the medical field from Brooklyn College. She also earned a B.A. in Psychology and M.S. in education with a concentration in Guidance and Counseling from Lehman College of the City University of New York.

Mrs. Thompson has been involved in her church for almost seventy years. As a child, she was guided in her faith by her former Pastor, the late Reverend W. L. Harding of St. Luke Baptist Church, in New York City. In 1955 she wed her husband, the Reverend Randolph Thompson, now Pastor Emeritus of the Victory Baptist Church. Through the years, Mrs. Thompson has served in many different capacities within the ministries of a number of churches. She is most proud, however, of her service as a Sunday School Teacher.

Mrs. Thompson has always been a trailblazer. She and her husband were actively involved in the Civil Rights movement and became leaders within the African American community in my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina. In the 1960's she was hired as one of the first African Americans to integrate and work for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in Miami, Florida. She was also one of the first African Americans to work at the Wilson Memorial Hospital in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Thompson is the proud mother of five children and three grandchildren. As parents, she and her husband fought for integration of public schools and their two daughters were the first African American girls to integrate the Wilson, North Carolina public school system.

When Mrs. Thompson and her husband returned to New York City, she worked as a medical secretary at Columbia University's Medical School. She later worked as a high school guidance counselor at Walton and Morris High Schools in the Bronx, New York.

Through the years she has received a number of awards including Guidance Counselor of the Year at Morris High School, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Church Woman of the Year, and the Meritorious Service Award for assisting and supporting her husband while he was a seminary school student at Colgate Rochester Divinity School. She has also been a member of the NAACP, United Federation of Teachers and their Guidance and Counselors Chapter.

Mrs. Thompson's extraordinary life has been one of devotion and love for her family, church, and social justice. Mr. Speaker, I salute Mrs. Bernice Coleman Thompson on her 80th birthday and send her best wishes for the years to come.

THE ATTACK AT LAX AIRPORT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my shock and dismay at the deadly shooting at Los Angeles International Airport on November 1. The gunman deliberately targeted Transportation Security Administration agents, killing Agent Gerardo I. Hernandez and wounding two other TSA agents and a high school teacher.

Mr. Hernandez was a brave and dedicated public servant. He was known for his commitment to his family and cheerful demeanor with travelers passing through his checkpoint. My thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family, especially his wife Ana and their two children.

Also in my thoughts are the over 50,000 TSA agents who work to keep our skies safe every day. They screen nearly 2 million passengers daily at 450 airports nationwide. Many agents will be facing long hours in the next few months as holiday travelers fill our airports and skies. It is their dedication that keeps us safe as we travel home for the holidays and all TSA agents should know that their efforts and sacrifices are deeply appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD FLOYD

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Donald Floyd, who has helped to improve the lives of millions of youth across our country through his outstanding efforts as Chief Executive Officer of National 4-H Council.

Although Don has served as CEO of National 4-H Council for thirteen years, he still describes himself as "a youth worker at heart." From his earliest days as Executive Director for Junior Achievement in Reading, Pennsylvania, to his current position at National 4-H Council, he has been driven by the knowledge that young people who are involved in positive youth development opportunities will create a healthier and more prosperous future for us all. Under Don's leadership, National 4-H Council adopted a new mission in the year 2000: "To advance the 4-H youth development movement to build a world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change." Don's commitment to see National 4-H Council fulfill that mission is evidenced through his efforts to create the "National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century" and the creation of the first national action agenda for youth policy. Through these activities, 4-H has grown into one of the world's largest youth development organizations, serving more than seven million youth in 50 countries.

During Don's tenure, the 4-H movement has built upon the organization's history of bringing scientific development into rural areas to provide new and exciting programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education to youth. Through these programs, young people across the country have the opportunity to study alternative energy, robotics and geographic technologies in an effort to get them engaged in STEM education and careers. Don has led 4-H in reaching out to important communities of youth, including those in urban areas, youth at risk of delinquency, children of military families, Native American youth and children of incarcerated parents. He has made a particular impact globally where 4-H is increasing its focus on international communities and identifying the role young people play in addressing the issue of food security. Don is focused on empowering independent country-led 4-H programs to increase their impact on young people; encouraging their youth to be the next generation of farmers, leaders and innovators; and expanding the reach of positive youth development worldwide.

Throughout this growth, Don has maintained a commitment to the principle at the heart of 4-H: young people and adults working together to improve their communities. Through his ability to maintain the successful traditions of the past while identifying and pursuing opportunities for the future, Don has helped 4-H produce a generation of young people who are contributing citizens to their communities, their country and their world.

As Don retires as CEO of National 4-H Council, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him on behalf of the millions of youth,